

GRAY WANTS CHANGE TO SHOW HIS FORM

McAleer's Only Southpaw Thinks He Is Ready to Pitch. Walker Works Today—Reisling's Spitter Too Much for Naps.

By THOMAS S. RICE.

Dolly Gray has told Manager McAleer that he is feeling fit to take his regular turn in the box for the Washington team, and help relieve the strain which now seems likely to fall on Walter Johnson and Bob Groom as the mainstays of the pitching staff. Gray is still somewhat of an enigma to McAleer, who did not see him work last year, and has seen him give rather weak exhibitions this spring. Washington needs a left-handed pitcher the worst way, and as Gray is the only one on the list, his return to active duty will be of special importance to both the fans and the manager. In fact, the staff could well support another good southpaw, and the next new face seen in the line-up will be an individual touted as such.

Walker is to pitch today and Groom tomorrow. Walker has been showing some of his old speed and control in practice, and the manager thinks he will make good this afternoon. If he does not, it would not be surprising to see Walker ranked permanently with the "busted phenomena," for at no time since the regular season, at least, has he shown the class he had in the four games he pitched toward the end of last season.

Game today with Cleveland, 4 p. m.

Why do the heaviest rains? Three games in a row would be nothing for the Washington baseball team if the pitching were to remain consistent—and it may do that.

Not many comets are lucky enough to arrive at Washington when the home team is having a winning streak.

If there is any cyanogen in the tail of the comet as yet, enough hope some fan will catch it; a pint of it is little gift for Kid Starup.

Thought in the first inning yesterday that Doc Reisling was an advance agent for the comet.

Look up Jimmy McAleer's stenographer and get him to confess. Then maybe Jimmy will be able to find all of a sudden the answer to the Washington pitching improvement. That would be a valuable document for reference.

Doc Reisling pitched the easiest looking game in baseball since 1909, and making it three straight victories in a row for Washington that ever was seen. How he got away with it was a mystery to those who were not in a position to see that his spitball was breaking down in a manner starting to the left, and that left hand with small chance of hitting it squarely. The apparent lack of effort in the doctor's work was really amazing and kept the crowd guessing when he would explode. He had his full share of the terrible drives of Turner and Lajoie in the sixth inning, which went where Kid Elberfeld could knock them down, even if he could not handle them afterward. McBride also did a whole lot to save the doctor in emergency, but the gentle George played the kind of game that is going to cause cigars to be named after him some day.

Conroy had an odd experience. He had one chance in the whole game, and that was so easy he booted it in the ninth inning, with two on bases. That is not Conroy's usual style.

Still, Reisling demonstrated to the neighbors that assembled that in an emergency he had more than his free and easy style of twirling indicated. In the sixth inning Clarke led off with a double, and the outlook was as gloomy in the extreme as the doctor spat upon the ball with great vigor, and made it so slippery that Kruger fouled high to Elberfeld. Bradley should have been as easy as Kruger, for his grounder was a mere detail to such a promising pitcher. Bradley's other way this time, and the ball slipped from the third base, and the first inning was largely due to the same handicap.

When it comes to the fashion plate stuff Doc Gessler is right there. He has more clothes of all sorts than any athlete we know, and on the principle that to him who hath shall be given, he is busy this day getting measured for a new suit. He is a man of his perquisite for making a home run. Go to it, Doc. We don't care if you break the tailor, just so you keep on going breaking the fence with our home runs and doubles, as you did yesterday. Aye, price, price. Let us take nine more to make a man, but that will go to the right field in the fourth inning would indicate that at least eight of them have already completed their share of the job, for there was nothing but a single about that close shave, most mighty and manful smash, and if the fence had not been there it would have been going away.

Also, Gessler's throwing arm was never in better shape.

The making of the Washington runs was entirely orthodox, and in keeping with the lefty attitude our team has preserved toward the opposition throughout the season. So far Washington has mostly squandered errors and errors and thoughtlessness by the other fellows. It has insisted upon beating in the runs by main force, which has been a most comforting reflection even in the direst hours, for it showed that there was stamina and substance to the team up if it could only get good pitching to back it. Washington made three runs yesterday, and all of them were earned. Milan singled in the first inning, took third on Conroy's single and scored on Lelivelt's infield out. The most capricious critic could not carp about that. Doc Gessler batted himself all the way home from the plate in the fourth inning, as aforesaid. With two out in the sixth Elberfeld singled and was sent from first to the plate by Gessler's double to right. Pretty good stuff, and that is the way it has been going right along.

We wish to say amen to Brother Peet's fling of this morning to the class of people who, every time a ball team begins to lose, take pen in hand to write anonymous letters to the newspapers, making all sorts of charges against the players. It might be mentioned that it is very seldom that a judge gives less than two years in the penitentiary to those who send scurrilous matter through the mails, and that it is often a simple matter to find the sender. The charge that Walter Johnson has shown poor form this season because of incessant cigarette smoking has been going around town from the usual cowardly and anonymous sources for some days, and does not contain a grain of truth. Johnson has pitched a lot of bad ball this year. His poor performance on the diamond is open to criticism by the fans and newspapers, just as is the work of any other man in the public, and who makes a living out of exhibiting his peculiar abilities before the public. But the constant harp-

Standings and Possibilities

AMERICAN LEAGUE									
Yesterday's Results									
Washington, 4	Cleveland, 1	Boston, 11	Detroit, 4	New York, 5	St. Louis, 3	Philadelphia, 4	Chicago, 1		
Today's Games									
Chicago at Philadelphia.									
St. Louis at New York.									
Detroit at Boston.									
Cleveland at Washington.									
Standing of the Clubs									
Club	W.	L.	Pct.	Win.	Loss				
Philadelphia	16	4	.800	810	782				
New York	13	8	.619	598	762				
Detroit	10	10	.500	615	677				
Cleveland	12	10	.545	565	522				
Boston	12	12	.500	583	490				
Chicago	8	12	.400	429	381				
Washington	9	16	.359	385	346				
St. Louis	4	17	.190	227	182				

NATIONAL LEAGUE									
Yesterday's Results									
Pittsburg, 7	Philadelphia, 4	Chicago, 4	Boston, 2	Cincinnati, 3	Brooklyn, 2	St. Louis, 4	New York, 2		
Today's Games									
Boston at Pittsburg.									
Brooklyn at Chicago.									
New York at Cincinnati.									
Philadelphia at St. Louis.									
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Club	W.	L.	Pct.	Win.	Loss				
Pittsburg	13	8	.619	526	391				
Philadelphia	12	9	.571	531	345				
Cincinnati	12	9	.571	531	345				
Chicago	13	11	.545	569	329				
Gessler, 11	12	12	.500	558	519				
St. Louis	11	12	.476	489	449				
Boston	9	14	.391	417	373				
Brooklyn	9	17	.346	370	333				

AMATEUR LEAGUES									
Yesterday's Results									
Capital City League—No game.									
Departmental League—Commerce and Labor, 9; Navy, 2.									
Sunday School League—Peck, 12; Langdon, 3.									
Marquette League—Pension Bureau, 8; Congressmen, 6.									
Commercial League—R. P. Andrews, 8; Berry & Whitmore, 1.									
Bankers' League—No game.									
Terminal Railroad Y. M. C. A. League—Southern, 5; Station, 3.									
Independence League—Manhattan, 1; National Union, 1.									
Southern Railway League—No game.									
Suburban League—Silver Spring, 9; Mt. Pleasant, 4.									
Olympia League—Olives, 3; Tanglewood, 1.									
Colored Departmental League—Agricultural, 16; Bureau, 6.									
GAMES TODAY									
Capital City League—Postponed game will be played at Capital City Park, First and M streets northwest.									
Departmental League—Commissioners vs. Agriculture, on the White Lot.									
Sunday School League—Ninth vs. Sixth, at Thirteenth and D streets northeast.									
Marquette League—G. P. O. vs. Columbia 101, at First and W streets northwest.									
Commercial League—Britanos vs. the Washington Herald, at Georgia avenue and Keyway street.									
Bankers' League—No game scheduled.									
Southern Railway League—Bookkeepers vs. Treasurers.									
Olympia League—Tennallytown vs. St. Stephen's, at Thirty-fifth and M streets northwest.									
Independence League—St. Paul vs. Twining, at McDewitt's Field, 14th and Rhode Island avenues northeast.									
Suburban League—Brightwood vs. Takoma, at New Hampshire avenue and Upshur street, Potomac.									
Terminal Railroad Y. M. C. A. League—Shoppers vs. Trainers.									
Colored Departmental League—Postoffice vs. War and Navy, on Monument Lot.									

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